



## **STEPBRIDGE AUSTRALIA BRIDGE CLUB Inc.**

**NSW: No.1601614 ABN: 72 440 380 586**

Email Contact: [support@stepbridge.com.au](mailto:support@stepbridge.com.au). Web. <https://www.stepbridge.com.au>

---

### **ANNUAL REPORT - PRESIDENT for Financial Year Ending June 2024**

StepBridge continues to experience new players and returning players joining and rejoining our club and enjoying our style of online bridge. We currently have 2056 paid up members, of which 260 are Home Club Members, participating in the 47 regularly scheduled tournaments every week. Among our members we have 18 who are aged 90 years and older with VIP Status and 25 who are Youth Players.

This year we continued to host two clubs in our Virtual Club rooms to enable them to a mix of face-to-face and online sessions in their Club Programmes.

Teams are now part of our weekly schedule on a Monday evening as well as an offering for Congresses.

Our Audio-Video platform is now up and running with regular Audio-Video sessions with our Sunday Afternoon All Around Australia Red Masterpoint Session and Monday evening Teams session. It is our intention to start to introduce Audio-Video into our Congresses.

The Committee had started to investigate ways for assisting players to improve their game with lessons and mentoring. This will continue to be investigated and implemented with the 2024-2025 Committee.

#### **DIRECTORS**

Thank you to our StepBridge Tournament Director Team, looked after by our Head TD Sarah Zoral, for their contribution and support to our players over the past 12 months. The Tournament Director Team have looked after our regular sessions as well as the Congresses hosted by StepBridge, which has involved 114,082 players. This is increase from 110,269 players in 2022-2023 Financial Year.

#### **ONLINE CONGRESSES**

StepBridge hosted and conducted the following Online Congresses in 2023-2024. Two of these congresses were for Grafton Bridge Club, which uses our Virtual Club Facility.

- 1 July 2023: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 15 July 2023: Grafton Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 14 October 2023: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 16 December 2023: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 13 April 2024: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]
- 14 April 2024: StepBridge Australia Bridge Club [Swiss Teams Congress]
- 1 June 2024: Grafton Bridge Club [Swiss Butler Pairs Congress]

## **BRIDGE SPONSORSHIP**

Over the last year, StepBridge sponsored the following events:

- February 2024 – Gold Coast Congress Open Teams
- May 2024 – Autumn Nationals Under Grand & Under Life Pairs and Teams
- July 2024 – Central West Festival of Bridge

We will continue to sponsor the Gold Coast Congress and Autumn Nationals events listed above in 2025. We will also sponsor some events at the 2025 Australian National Championships which will be held in Brisbane.

The sponsorships are appreciated both by the organisers of these events as well as the players.

## **HOSPITALITY EVENT**

During the Gold Coast Congress, StepBridge held a Hospitality Event to allow members to socialise with each other.

The plan is that this will continue 2025, if there is support from members to assist in the organising and running on this Hospitality Event.

## **NEWSLETTER**

The newsletter has continued to be a great source of communication and useful information. Thank you to Greg McCarron who assists me as co-editor of the newsletter as well as those members who regularly contribute to the newsletter.

## **COMMITTEE & ADMIN TEAM**

Thank you to the Management Committee of 2023-2024 for the work they have done over the last year.

My thanks goes to outgoing members Sarah Zoral, Bob Laing, Alan Puckey and Larry Bryant for their support and contribution to the Committee over the past year.

Thanks to Suzi Ledger (Treasurer), Greg McCarron (Secretary), Cassandra Mitchell and Sebastian Wright (Committee Members) for their contributions in 2023-2024 and who are renominating for the 2024-2025 Committee.

I also acknowledge and thank those who assist StepBridge in the background, including Mark Hetherington (Technical), Rattan Saini (Bookkeeper) and Antonina Hayles (Masterpoint Secretary).

Special thanks and acknowledgement also to Epko Steinmetz and his team at StepBridge International (SBI) for their ongoing improvements and enhancements to our platform.

## **LIFE MEMBERSHIP – SARAH ZORAL**

The Management Committee are putting forward at our AGM this year that we grant Sarah Zoral Life Membership of StepBridge Australia for the contribution she has given to the club over a number of years, which deserves recognition.

Sarah has held many different positions on the Committee since early 2017 including

- Treasurer
- Admin Secretary inc. looking after Technical matters
- President
- Head TD
- Player Support

During COVID, Sarah provided overwhelming support to new players to StepBridge. For many months this involved approximately 18-hour days.

### **ELECTION OF OFFICE BEARERS 2024-2025**

It is important that StepBridge secures a talented capable team to undertake the administration of the club, with an emphasis on administration and technical abilities, and to also provide support to our membership.

It has been a privilege to be President of StepBridge Australia over this last year. I will be re-nominating for a second term as President.

We have a wonderful club made up of loyal members who have formed great bonds and friendships with their partners from all around Australia. That is something unique for our bridge club of StepBridge Australia.

**Chris Larter**

**President, StepBridge Australia**